10-30 a.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" There is only half an hour more. I want to finish the rest of the questions within that time. Question No. 420."

Women's Welfare Centres in the Tanjore district.

* 420 *Q.*—SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state the total number of Women's Welfare Centres in Tanjore district during 1952–53?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Five Women's Welfare Branches consisting of eight centres."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" What are the functions of the Women Welfare Centres? Are the Government directly financing these centres? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" As for the activities of the Women Welfare Centres I may state that social education, citizenship training, community behaviour, adult education and adult literacy are carried out in those centres. Civic duties are encouraged, that is, co-operation with public authorities in regard to sanitation, public health, education, hospital visiting, etc., celebration of common festivals, days of national importance, excursions, competitions and news-hour discussions, debates and lectures are managed. Adult education is provided. Literacy work in the centres is very popular. Subsidiary (Cottage) industries to enable the poor to earn a small income are carried out. House to house visit is done by the field staff. As for the second part of the question, it is entirely the expenditure of Government."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" தஞ்சை ஜில்லா கிராமப் புறங்களில் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவது ஒரு குடிசைத் தொழிலாக மாறி வருகிறது. மதுவிலக்கு வெற்றி பெறவேண்டுமானால் இந்த Women's Welfare Centres மூலமாக மதுவிலக்கின் அவசியத்தைப்பற்றிப் பிரசாரம் செய்யும்படி இந்த Association-னுக்கு அரசாங்கம் உத்தரவு பிறப்பிக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Yes, Sir. There is also a proposal to that effect. If the hon. Members also do some propaganda in their respective constituencies, it willl be helpful."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Are males employed as officers in these centres? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Sir, the name itself is ' women welfare centre ' and not ' men welfare centre '." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Of the functions of the women welfare officers read out by the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition, we find that one important aspect, viz., family planning is left out.

Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to include that also as one of the functions in which they should take interest and do more propaganda on family planning for women in the various districts? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I may inform the hon. Member that though it is not included in the functions just now read out by me, those officers are already doing some propaganda on family planning."

SRI S. ARUMUGAM PILLAI:—"மாதர் நல இலாகாவானது பணக்கார பெண்களுக்கு ஒரு Recreation Club மாதிரி இருக்கிறது என்பது வாஸ்தவம் தானா ? இனிமேற்கொண்டு அம்மாதிரி யில்லாமல் ஏழைகள் வசிக்குமிடங்களுக்குச் சென்று ஏழைப் பெண்களை முன்னேற்றம் அடையும்படி செய்வதற்கு இந்த இலாக்கா வேலை செய்வதற்கான முயற்சியை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் எடுப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" I don't think there is any such thing as the hon. Member states. If there is any special case, the hon. Member may bring it to the notice of the Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state whether the area of operation of these welfare associations for women is restricted to towns alone? If so, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to see that the activities of these associations are extended to the village parts also since the women in village parts need more help than the women in the town parts? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" The women welfare centres are organized merely for the purpose of bringing the village people together and not the town people, as the town people are much more advanced than the village people."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" What are the qualifications prescribed for these women welfare officers ? May I know whether they are appointed by the Government straightaway or by the Public Services Commission? Which is the authority that is appointing these officers? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI R. KRISHNASAMY NAIDU :—" கிராமப் பிரதேசங்களிலுள்ள Women's Welfare Centre-களில் விவாஹமானவர்களையே நியமிப்பது உசிதமென்று கிராமத்தினர் கருதுவதை சர்க்கார் உணருமா ? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" No such information has been brought to the notice of the Government. If the hon. Member thinks that it is only married people who should be brought under these welfare centres, I don't think the Government will have any objection."